GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
PROTECTION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote and protect the vast mineral reserves of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 60 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON THE 21ST OCTOBER, 2008 REGARDING PROTECTION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

(a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. During the 10th Plan period, major thrust has been accorded to exploration of high value minerals and augmenting resource base for minerals having key role in sustaining industrial growth. Geological Survey of India(GSI) added 12,177 million tonnes of coal, 941 million tonnes of lignite, 8.2 million tonnes of copper ore, 0.8 million tonnes of lead-zinc ore, 37.42 million tonnes of iron ore, 14.38 million tonnes of manganese ores, 5.70 million tonnes of bauxite, 1883 million tonnes of limestone, 42.49 million tonnes of gold ore, 5.56 billion cubic meters of coal bed methane, to the National Inventory mostly by way of new discoveries in the 10th Plan period. GSI has also discovered several kimberlite pipes, of which 4 pipes in Andhra Pradesh are diamond bearing. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has added 10,651 million tonnes of coal, 4667 million tonnes of lignite, 137 million tonnes of base metals and 3.35 millions tonnes of Gold ore to the mineral inventory. In the 11th Plan the investment proposed in exploration and mining for sustaining growth and development of mineral sector is given below:-

Survey and mapping	Mineral exploration	Specialized investigation	Modernization and replacement
251.54 crores	116.57 crores	12.44 crores	827.66 crores

With a view to protect the mineral resources in the country the Government has framed the Mines and Minerals(Development and Regulation Act, 1957, (MMDR), the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960(MCR) and the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR) for systematic and scientific development, and conservation of minerals.